communal violence in several parts of Kashmir Valley since February, 1986; and

(b) what action has been taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the State Government, a total of 765 persons have been arrested in connection with recent disturbances in the State.

Indians to be rendered Stateless on transfer of Hongkong to China

309. SHRI J.P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people of Indian community are likely to be rendered Stateless in Hongkong after its transfer to China in 1997;

(b) if so, what is the number of such members of the Indian community; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) According to the United Kingdom Government Memorandum attached to the Sino-UK Agreement on Hongkong, all persons who are British Dependent Territories Citizens (BDTCs) in Hongkong, will cease to be BDTCs, with effect from 1st July, 1997 when China resumes sovereignty over Hongkong. These persons will, thereafter, be entitled to use separate passports which will be issued by the UK Government, and does not give them the right of abode in the UK. All persons of Indian origin in Hongkong, who are currently BDTCs will be affected by these regulations

(b) The number of persons of Indian origin who presently hold British Dependent Territories Citizenship in Hongkong is approximately 4,400.

(c) The Government of India are of the view that the UK Government have the basic responsibility towards the BDTCs of Indian origin in Hongkong and that the United Kingdom should take all necessary steps to ensure that this category of persons is not rendered Stateless after July 1, 1997. The Government of India are in close touch with the UK Government on this matter.

310 [*Transferred to the 29th April*, 1986.]

Construction of F-16 assembly Unit in Turkey by U.S.

311. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the United States has cleared the construction of an F-16 fighter aircraft assembly lines in Turkey;

(b) whether the plant is likely to be used for servicing of Pakistan's F-16 fighter aircraft ;

(c) whether the military strength of Pakistan is likely to be boosted as a result of construction of such a plant; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to face the increased threat of Pakistan-US tie-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Government have seen press reports to this effect.